

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1623

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORG, NP

SUBJ: COUNTRY STUDIES ON MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

REF: (A) STATE 082497

(B) KATHMANDU 0929

1. WE FIND PROPOSED FORMAT OF COUNTRY STUDIES ON MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO BE USEFUL COMPENDIUM OF INFORMATION. ONLY SUGGESTION WE OFFER IS POSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFYING KEY FIGURES IN FORMULATION OF EACH COUNTRY'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS NON-ALIGNED, SINCE IN CASE OF NEPAL, TWO OR THREE INDIVIDUALS PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN MAKING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES VIS-A-VIS NON-ALIGNED. IN NEPAL FOREIGN SECRETARY UDDHAV BHATT, FOR EXAMPLE, IS RESIDENT EXPERT ON NON-ALIGNED WHOSE VIEWS CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT EVEN AT LEVEL OF PALACE. PRIME MINISTER GIRI, TOO, CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE STRONG VIEWS ON POLICIES NEPAL WILL ADOPT AT COLOMBO SUMMIT.

2. AS FOR SUBSTANCE OF STUDY WE ASSUME DEPTMENT WILL DRAW ON REFTTEL (B) IN WHICH WE HAVE SUMMARIZED OUR VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS FOR NEPL IN COMING YEAR.

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3. WE WOULD ADD THAT NEPALESE ARE AWARE OF IMPORTANCE

WE ATTACH TO CERTAIN ISSUES IN MULTIALTERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO THOSE CONCERNS. ON KOREAN ISSUE, FOR EXAMPLE, KEY MFA OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED PRIVATE SUPPORT FO US/ROK POSITIONS BUT ADMIT THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES REQUIRE A STRICTLY NEUTRAL STANCE AT UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS, NEPAL HAS ALSO CONSISTENTLY ABSTAINED, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL NEPALESE DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ARE SO INSTRUCTED. WE CAN, HOWEVER, PROBABLY EXPECT GREATER SUPPORT ON PUERTON RICAN ISSUE, HAVING BEEN ASSURED BY FOREIGN MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT NEPAL VIEWS THIS QUESTION AS STRICTLY INTERNAL AFFAIR OF U.S. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE BROAD ACCESS TO ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE KING IF NECESSARY, AND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO DATE IN ASSURING THAT NEPAL'S TRADITIONAL NEUTRALITY IS NOT ERODED TO PLEASE MORE REDICAL STATES OF NON-ALIGNED. AS LARGE AID DONOR, AS WELL AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO NUMEROUS MULTIALTERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN NEPAL, US PRESENCE IN NEPAL IS WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED. WE WOULD NOT, THEREFORE, EXPECT DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS EVEN-HANDED APPROACH NEPAL HAS ADOPTED TOWARDS NON-ALIGNED AND WOULD JUDGE THAT POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN AT COLOMBO WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS POLICY.

4. DESPITE THIS ATTITUDE OF MODERATION PROBLEM REMAINS OF HOW WE CAN GET NEPALESE TO SPEK OUT IN MEETINGS OF NON-ALIGNED. NOTWITHSTANDING FACT THAT THEY ARE FOUNDING MEMBER. NEPALESE CONSIDER THAT AS SMALL COUNTRY THEY ARE UNABLE TO TAKE STRONG STAND AGAINST WISHES OF MAJORITY. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE FILED GENERAL RESERVATIONS AT DECISIONS SUCH AS LIMA DECLARATION, THEY HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST SPECIFIC DECISIONS WHICH RUN COUNTER TO THEIR OWN STATED FOREIGN POLICY. IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER MODERATES AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED BEING WILLING TO SPEAK UP, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET THE NEPALESE TO DO SO. EAVES

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